



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 574**

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 6018

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2015*

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. REED of the 102nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANY  
SERVICE RESTORATION FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SERIOUS HEALTH  
CONDITIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16-32h of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (i) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (NEW) (i) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a  
4 docket to establish industry specific standards for acceptable  
5 performance by each utility in an emergency to protect customers who  
6 are diagnosed with a serious health condition, as defined in section 31-  
7 51kk. Such standards shall require prioritizing and facilitating  
8 restoration of service outages and disruptions and reducing the  
9 duration of such outages and disruptions for such customers,  
10 including, but not limited to, the following requirements for each such  
11 utility:

12 (1) Keeping an updated list of customers who are diagnosed with a

13 serious health condition;

14 (2) Publishing relevant information on its Internet web site  
15 regarding how a customer may notify the utility regarding a serious  
16 health condition; and

17 (3) Providing staff training on how to promptly restore service in  
18 the event of service outages and disruptions for customers with a  
19 serious health condition.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	16-32h

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In Sec. 1(i)(3), "in the event of service" was inserted for clarity.

***ET***

*Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

---

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to establish industry specific performance standards for electric distribution and gas companies prioritizing the protection of customers with serious health conditions during emergencies, has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as ratepayers.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6018*****AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANY SERVICE RESTORATION FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to open a proceeding to establish industry specific performance standards for electric distribution companies and gas companies to protect their customers with serious health conditions during emergencies. The standards must require the companies to:

1. prioritize and facilitate service restorations to such customers during outages and disruptions,
2. reduce the duration of outages and disruptions for such customers,
3. keep an updated list of such customers,
4. publish relevant information on the company's website about how a customer can notify the company about a serious health condition, and
5. provide staff training on how to promptly restore service for such customers during service outages or disruptions.

Under the bill, a "serious health condition" is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves (1) inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, nursing home, or residential medical care facility or (2) continuous treatment, including outpatient treatment, by a health care provider. An "emergency" is (1) a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, snowstorm, or certain other natural disasters or (2) an

attack by an enemy of the United States that causes, or could cause, substantial damage or injury to civilian property or persons.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)